

**Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee
Minutes of Monday, October 3, 2005**

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, October 3, 2005, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Sandy Kane, Vice Chair
Councilmember Susan Horne
Planning Commissioner Brett Burk
McCartney

Terry Elvers
Gabe Kelemen
Brian Rolston

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Mike Bomgardner
Nick Colonna
Mark

Sean Baroody

VRTA Representative Present

Greg McGowan
Craig Lane

Citizens Present

Wendy Drury

Pastor Van Welton

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Brian Rolston, seconded by Nick Colonna, the minutes for the August 1, 2005 meeting were approved, with Brett Burk abstaining. On motion by Brett Burk, seconded by Susan Horne, the “un-minutes” from the August 29, 2005, at which there was no quorum, were approved unanimously.

2. *Public Comment:* (i) Wendy Drury, who resides adjacent to Lawson Road, was present to hear the Committee’s discussion of Lawson Road residents’ requests. (ii) Pastor Van Welton noted the children’s programs the Crossroads Baptist Church is hosting on behalf of the community at 850 Edwards Ferry Road, including ESL classes and the children’s orchestra. He asked the Committee to endorse the installation of a left-turn lane into the Church for eastbound traffic, and a crosswalk and flashing lights for the safety of pedestrians. Liz Whiting noted that the traffic calming programs under which the Committee operates are limited to traffic in “residence districts” as defined by Va. Code section 46.2-100, although the Committee had taken on other projects at the request of the Town Council. Liz Whiting’s concern was that the Church’s road frontage would preclude a finding that the stretch of road where improvements are requested is in a residence district. Liz Whiting promised to follow up with Calvin Grow and Gabe Kelemen on this issue. (iii) Brian Rolston reported comments by neighbors in the vicinity of the Marshall Drive raised crosswalk: Per Phil Marshall, he has witnessed a reduction in vehicle speeds since the installation. Brian Rolston reported that Jeannie Gohn notes that vehicles now speed west toward Catoctin Circle. Calvin Grow noted that a traffic circle will be installed at Catoctin Circle and Marshall Drive as part of the Lowenbach Subdivision improvements.

3. *Ad Hoc S.W. Subcommittee update:* The Ad Hoc Committee did not meet due to the absence of a quorum. Committee members felt that the Ad Hoc Committee needed a gentle reminder that their mission will not be complete until they vote to send

recommendations, whether amended or not following the public input sessions, to the Committee for endorsement to the Town Council. Liz Whiting said that she would contact the committee members to remind them of their mission and that inviting a representative from Arlington County may spark some productive discourse.

4. *VRTA update:* Greg McGowan walked the committee through planned changes to the three bus routes, but noted that relocation of the hub to the Shenandoah Building had been blocked by County objections. He was pleased to report that the changes actually provided the opportunity to improve service by eliminating redundancies on two routes and adding a link through Catoctin Circle, S.E. that will enhance safety for riders from the skate park. Sandy Kane asked why no fixed routes went through southeast quadrant neighborhoods; Mr. McGowan indicated he would inquire and report back. On motion by Liz Whiting, seconded by Brett Burk, the Committee unanimously voted to endorse the proposed route changes and revised trolley times. Mr. McGowan noted the continued rise in usage figures for Safe-T-Ride. Because the trolley also is free and duplicates part of the Safe-T-Ride route, the Committee asked that VRTA provide monthly updates on trolley usage, as well. Mr. McGowan noted that VRTA was considering expanding the Safe-T-Ride hours to match the trolley's which would improve the frequency of free Route 15 By-Pass crossings. Brett Burk asked regarding the availability of bilingual brochures for the new bus shelter and Mr. McGowan noted that a new generation will be produced in connection with the route changes.

5. *Smart trailer report:* Mark McCartney presented the results of the Smart trailer surveys. Wendy Drury challenged the location surveyed on Lawson Road, saying that the speeding problem was at the intersection of Lawson and Beauregard rather than at the top of the hill near Calvary Court.

6. *Lawson Road update:* Calvin Grow presented the results of their studies, noting that the average speed has increased since the bridge has been reopened following the paving of the southern portion of the road and removal of onstreet parking. Calvin Grow also noted that traffic volumes are quickly increasing and will continue to increase until the bridge ultimately is closed in accordance with the Town Council's resolutions. On motion by Sandy Kane, seconded by Terry Elvers, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend reintroducing onstreet parking along the 110 foot strip identified by staff, installation of a raised crosswalk across Lawson Road north of the intersection with Beauregard Drive/Brigadier Court and requesting that the Loudoun County Public Schools consider relocating the bus stop north to the intersection with Beauregard Drive. On motion by Sandy Kane, seconded by Terry Elvers, the Committee also unanimously voted against closing Lawson Road at this time.

7. *Speeding at Potomac Station Drive and Tonquin Place:* The Committee asked that staff conduct pedestrian crossing counts during the afternoon periods after children will have gone home from the schools. They are concerned with the "magnet" attraction of ball fields and playgrounds and the likelihood that children are attracted whether or not parents are available to drive them.

8. *School Zone Sign on Marshall Drive*; Speed studies at 105 Plaza Street, N.E.: Mike Bomgardner reported that the flashing signs have been installed but haven't yet been activated, but will be once the 15 mph signs have been installed. Mike Bomgardner also reported that average speeds at 105 Plaza Street, N.E. were 28 mph for southbound vehicles and 29 mph for northbound vehicles.

9. *Review of Residential Traffic Management Plan*: The Committee agreed that this must await appointment of members to the vacant northwest and southwest quadrant positions and replacement of an active fire/rescue participant, as well as lessons learned from the Ad Hoc Committee process. Liz Whiting will write to Ricky Obaugh to ask him to seek a replacement if he cannot resume attendance.

10. *Committee concerns*: Gabe Kelemen reported concerns by Memorial Drive residents regarding the proposal of a 100,000 square foot office building on the Loudoun Hospital Center Cornwall Street Campus. Susan Horne noted that Town officers and staff are carefully looking in to the proposal and acknowledge that if built as proposed, the project will introduce high traffic volumes into established residential neighborhoods.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40p.m. The next meeting is Monday, November 14, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.